

Submit to the 2023 Convention Webinar: Strategies and Tips

October 6, 6 p.m. CDT

Webinar Transcript

[00:00:10.080]

Terrific.

[00:00:11.440]

Fantastic. Welcome, everyone.

[00:00:13.760]

35 people. Now, that's lovely.

[00:00:17.200]

We're going to go ahead and get started.

[00:00:19.960]

All 35 of you, welcome.

[00:00:21.480]

Thank you all for making it—36, now.

[00:00:23.880]

Thank you all for being here.

[00:00:24.920]

We are Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society.

[00:00:28.080]

That is hopefully the least surprising thing you will hear tonight.

[00:00:31.600]

We are proud to present this webinar encouraging y'all and walking y'all

[00:00:35.600]

through the process of applying to share your academic work at our Colorful

[00:00:41.080]

Colorado convention this upcoming March and April,

[00:00:44.560]

in, of course, Denver, CO.

[00:00:47.120]

Just a few quick audio-visual, sort of IT stuff.

[00:00:52.560]

Please note that your audio is going to be

[00:00:56.240]

muted for the duration of the presentation.

[00:00:58.480]

If you've got any questions or comments

[00:01:00.720]

that come up, we're going to direct your attention to two buttons—

[00:01:04.240]

two very crucial buttons will be using over the course of the night.

[00:01:06.880]

There is one.

[00:01:07.920]

I believe it's in the top right hand corner of your screen.

[00:01:11.120]

It's got two little chat bubbles.

[00:01:12.640]

That is our chat feature for the evening.

[00:01:15.560]

Go ahead and test out your chat feature, as some of y'all have been doing, share

[00:01:20.400]

where you are, who you are, where you're studying at the moment.

[00:01:23.960]

Thank you

[00:01:24.440]

to those of you who are jumping right in there.

[00:01:26.480]

If you have a question, specifically something pertaining to what

[00:01:29.640]

we've covered on these slides and something that we can answer as

[00:01:32.920]

Sigma Tau Delta, please turn your attention to the other two little chat bubbles,

[00:01:37.360]

the Q&A button immediately to the right of that chat feature.

[00:01:41.760]

Those Q&A questions will display

[00:01:44.080]

themselves automatically over the course of the evening.

[00:01:46.000]

It'll help us out a lot.

[00:01:47.760]

This presentation is brought to you by us three.

[00:01:51.560]

Diane, do you want to introduce yourself?

[00:01:54.400]

I'm Diane Steinberg, and I'm coming to you from Ewing, NJ.

[00:01:58.120]

I am this year's convention chair.

[00:02:00.480]

Welcome very much.

[00:02:01.560]

And in response to one of the questions, yes, this is being recorded.

[00:02:07.680]

Thanks very much.

[00:02:08.240]

Hi, I'm Elfi Gabriel and I'm from the Central Office.

[00:02:12.440]

Right now, I'm in Elburn, IL,

[00:02:14.440]

which is about 30 minutes away from the Central Office.

[00:02:18.360]

And what I will be helping doing is making sure that your submissions come

[00:02:24.120]

in correctly and that they're evaluated correctly.

[00:02:27.480]

If you have any questions

[00:02:28.880]

for Englishconvention@niu.edu, primarily, I will be answering those,

[00:02:35.600]

but I will also be forwarding those to Diane and to other staff as needed.

[00:02:41.360]

Thank you, Elfi.

[00:02:42.800]

And folks, my name is Brett Iarrobino.

[00:02:45.080]

I am the Senior Student Advisor for Sigma Tau Delta's Board of Directors.

[00:02:49.080]

I'm coming at you from Worcester, MA.

[00:02:51.520]

Massachusetts, folks, please put some love in the chat.

[00:02:54.240]

And I'll be walking you all through some very broad convention information,

[00:02:59.720]

but some very necessary convention information.

[00:03:02.000]

And I'll be seeing you all at the convention doing a lot of different

[00:03:05.640]

tasks and important duties of Student Leadership. Manifesting

[00:03:09.600]

you all be there.

[00:03:10.800]

So just a very broad and quick agenda to run through for the course of our

[00:03:15.680]

evening after we convince you all to actually attend convention.

[00:03:19.880]

But hopefully there really won't be much convincing necessary.

[00:03:23.160]

We're going to run through very specific

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different types of academic opportunities that you have as students to present your

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work and to submit your work for Sigma Tau Delta's convention.

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Those are specifically paper

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presentations, roundtables and research in the round.

[00:03:39.080]

And once we go through all the logistics of what those three things look like,

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we will talk a little bit about what the actual submission process looks like

[00:03:46.080]

as well, and just some information that would be

[00:03:50.320]

very handy to write down and to keep track of.

[00:03:53.000]

But we will definitely send you some

[00:03:54.720]

emails over the course of the next few months as these dates approach.

[00:03:58.280]

Our convention in Denver will take place beginning Wednesday, March 29, Thursday,

[00:04:04.360]

March 30, Friday, March 31, and then we'll conclude on Saturday, April 1.

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There will be programming every single day, Wednesday through Saturday.

[00:04:14.480]

It will be really advantageous to your

[00:04:16.280]

experience if you were to be there for all four days.

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We'll be staying at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel,

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which, as you might be able to guess, is located in downtown Denver.

[00:04:26.440]

We've got really exciting opportunities to hear some speakers at the convention.

[00:04:31.400]

I have to say, having been to a few of them myself in the last few years,

[00:04:34.440]

it's really cool how many speakers exactly are going to be at this particular event.

[00:04:40.240]

Particularly, we've got the author of our

[00:04:42.520]

2023 Common Reader, Brenda Peynado, who wrote *The Rock Eaters*.

[00:04:46.560]

She will be speaking, I believe, on Friday night.

[00:04:49.560]

The Toni Morrison Book Club.

[00:04:51.320]

Four authors are responsible for this

[00:04:53.320]

incredible work, and we'll be hearing from all four of them as well.

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And then on Wednesday night, we will be kicking things off with about

[00:05:01.160]

two or three local Denver writers and poets.

[00:05:03.880]

We'll be hearing from them and you'll be hearing from some Student Leaders,

[00:05:06.960]

introducing them as well, which is very exciting.

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Why attend the convention?

[00:05:13.080]

Hopefully the answer is obvious,

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but if you still need some prodding, just know that being present and being

[00:05:20.840]

recognized and being a part of a Sigma Tau Delta Convention is a very big deal.

[00:05:25.520]

And it's a really, really cool opportunity

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to get yourself out there, to get some experience presenting papers

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and attending roundtables and hearing this work from your peers and from folks

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from all across the country who are also pursuing English as an academic study.

[00:05:43.920]

There are a lot of different authors, as we've already talked about.

[00:05:46.920]

There will also be a lot of different workshops and a lot of different

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opportunities to actually create content and create some really meaningful pieces

[00:05:54.360]

of literature and some pieces of perhaps more artistic literature.

[00:05:59.400]

Some things that Student Leaders, alumni,

[00:06:02.120]

different members of our community, will be facilitating for y'all.

[00:06:06.120]

These workshops will be taking place as we mentioned all across these past few days

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and all across those past few days, those four days total of the convention,

[00:06:13.880]

lots of different socialization opportunities,

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and lots of different opportunities to talk to students that you would never

[00:06:20.360]

talk to before under your normal circumstances.

[00:06:24.560]

Okay, I'm just going to take over for a little bit here before I get started.

[00:06:29.120]

I just want to say two things,

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and one of them is that everything we're doing in this webinar also

[00:06:35.080]

will be supplemented by the Englishconvention.org website.

[00:06:38.960]

If you haven't clicked around Englishconvention.org,

[00:06:42.320]

I really recommend that you do so because it's a wealth of information.

[00:06:46.840]

And the second thing I want to share with you is that I have been reading

[00:06:52.680]

convention essays for years and years and years, and the judges who read

[00:06:56.520]

convention essays are not trying to find ways to turn the essays down.

[00:07:01.960]

They're trying to find ways to say yes to the essay.

[00:07:05.120]

They're looking for essays that they can think of themselves as saying,

[00:07:09.480]

hmmm, a student presenting this in a panel would

[00:07:12.480]

generate some interest and generate some good questions.

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So let's say yes, that we do not want to try to make this

[00:07:19.640]

convention ever super competitive cut throat convention.

[00:07:23.280]

It's a fun convention and a good

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convention, so I don't want people to be afraid to submit.

[00:07:29.760]

Sigma Tau Delta students, Sigma Kappa Delta students,

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and Sigma Tau Delta alumni may all submit to convention.

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And if you are a transfer student

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from a two year or a different college coming into a new chapter,

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you are eligible to submit as a provisional member of Sigma Tau Delta as

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long as you join Sigma Tau Delta at the beginning of your spring semester.

[00:07:54.440]

So lots of people are eligible to submit.

[00:07:57.280]

What can students submit? Phew.

[00:07:59.600]

Just about everything under the sun. No.

[00:08:01.760]

Most students will submit a paper,

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and the papers could be critical essays or creative works.

[00:08:10.080]

Some students will submit an additional paper, but the second paper must be

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on The Common Reader, the Rock Eaters by Brenda Peynado.

[00:08:18.320]

And that second paper can be a critical essay or creative work.

[00:08:23.080]

In addition,

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students can submit a roundtable presentation or a research

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in the round table host proposal, and they'll be more about those later.

[00:08:35.520]

The bulk of our submissions are going to be paper submissions that are critical

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essays, and that's an academic paper, obviously written in prose about

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literature or some idea associated with English.

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We ask you to submit the complete paper that you're going to read,

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and it has to be 2,000 words or less that you're going to read.

[00:08:57.440]

So don't count your work cited or bibliography or footnotes or any of those

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things, just the part of the paper you're going to read aloud.

[00:09:05.440]

You'll select from a topics list to match

[00:09:08.680]

your paper up to a whole variety of different topics,

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and you will submit a very brief thesis statement from your critical essay.

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Lastly, there'll be four drop down menus

[00:09:19.920]

with keywords and you'll choose one keyword from each drop down menu.

[00:09:24.040]

The last two things, the critical essay

[00:09:27.240]

thesis statement and the keywords are not part of the judging of your essay.

[00:09:32.760]

They will be used to put your essay in the best possible paper session so

[00:09:36.840]

that it talks in a serendipitous and amazing way with the other three

[00:09:41.360]

papers it has been placed with in a wonderful and brilliant session.

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Another, the next biggest group

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of submissions we get will be creative submissions.

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And these will come in the form of both

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prose, creative nonfiction, and original prose and poetry.

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The same thing is true about the 2,000 words.

[00:10:04.200]

Whatever you submit to read aloud should be 2,000 words or fewer.

[00:10:08.240]

You won't have a thesis statement,

[00:10:09.880]

but you will submit a brief creative project statement.

[00:10:13.520]

Again, it will not be judged.

[00:10:15.400]

It will be used to fit your creative

[00:10:17.960]

project into a session with other creative projects that it will match well with.

[00:10:24.040]

And again, you will have some keywords

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to choose from from two different menus that will help us categorize your work.

[00:10:33.280]

In addition, of course,

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some people will be submitting papers about the common reader.

[00:10:38.320]

The Rock Eaters by Brenda Peynado.

[00:10:41.160]

The Rock Eaters is a collection of short stories.

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So if you find a short story or a couple

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of short stories that you really like, and you want to either write a critical

[00:10:51.120]

paper responding to them or write a creative work that is inspired by them,

[00:10:56.120]

that's something that you can submit as well.

[00:10:59.200]

If you submit something about

[00:11:00.880]

The Rock Eaters, you're going to put in a brief description

[00:11:05.520]

of how your work is connected to The Rock Eaters because it is a common reader.

[00:11:15.480]

Okay, of all these helpful tips, the two most important is start now.

[00:11:22.480]

Start now.

[00:11:23.640]

Okay, there's no reason not to.

[00:11:27.480]

You're going to want to pull something up that you really love and that you really

[00:11:32.000]

want to read and you really want to share, and you're going to start to look at it.

[00:11:36.480]

Look for people to read your paper.

[00:11:38.800]

Ask your Advisor, ask your teacher, ask your friends, ask your Chapter Advisor

[00:11:44.040]

just to give you some feedback about the paper.

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There's no reason not to go

[00:11:48.800]

into the submission website and create your profile.

[00:11:52.280]

The first thing you do when you submit is

[00:11:54.360]

fill a bunch of information about yourself, your email and the state

[00:11:59.680]

that you live in and the name of your Chapter Advisor.

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And if you get that stuff done now,

[00:12:04.680]

then you're ready to submit your paper by the deadline.

[00:12:08.240]

So that's the two most important tips.

[00:12:10.320]

Start now and ask people to read your paper and give you some feedback.

[00:12:17.280]

Now, one reason I tell you to submit something that you really love and are

[00:12:21.000]

really proud of is that the convention has convention paper awards.

[00:12:25.920]

Last year, over 40 people won convention

[00:12:28.960]

paper awards and the average award was \$301.

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So winning a convention paper award can

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really help you defray some of the cost of getting to convention.

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The Isabel Sparks President's Awards cover

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every single category under which you can submit a paper to convention.

[00:12:47.320]

There are no submissions that are ineligible for awards.

[00:12:51.280]

The Justin Q. Owen Convention Awards

[00:12:54.000]

are awards related to the convention theme of Colorful Colorado.

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And this year, those awards will be for people who write about multicultural

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literature and world literature by people of color.

[00:13:04.520]

Because our theme is Colorful Colorado, I'm going to skip the next two awards.

[00:13:09.000]

We'll get them on the next slide.

[00:13:10.760]

But there are special paper awards

[00:13:13.040]

for students who are Sigma Kappa Delta members,

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and there are special convention awards for students who are alumni members.

[00:13:23.040]

The Stemmler/Dennis Award is only in its second year, so it's relatively new.

[00:13:28.400]

And it's the Stemmler/Dennis LGBT& Award, which honors student members who do

[00:13:35.160]

an LGBTQ+ themed essay or creative work.

[00:13:40.640]

And to be considered for this award,

[00:13:43.640]

when you have your keywords, you want to select one of these two

[00:13:47.440]

keywords, either the LGBTQ+ under theme or queer theory/

[00:13:53.640]

LGBTQ+ theory under critical methodology.

[00:13:57.360]

As long as you pick one of those, then you are in the running for this award.

[00:14:02.880]

This is also the second year that we will be giving the Beth DeMeo Poetry Award.

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And this award is not for your original

[00:14:09.360]

poetry, but for a critical essay that discusses poetry.

[00:14:14.240]

And so if you want to be considered for this award, then the genre keyword

[00:14:19.000]

that you will choose is going to be poetry.

[00:14:21.680]

Whether it's dramatic or narrative poetry

[00:14:23.720]

or lyric poetry does not make a difference.

[00:14:26.360]

But since it's a paper about poetry, you'll pick that as your genre keyword.

[00:14:33.920]

Now, we're switching gears a little bit.

[00:14:36.080]

Another thing that you can submit is a roundtable.

[00:14:39.400]

A roundtable, which I didn't understand

[00:14:41.720]

until at least my third convention, is a 75 minutes lively discussion that is

[00:14:49.440]

primed by the participants who come to the roundtable ready to start

[00:14:54.200]

the discussion and start the discussion ball rolling.

[00:14:57.040]

They've done some research.

[00:14:58.440]

They've thought of some questions.

[00:14:59.960]

They've kind of prepared three to five minutes apiece of what they want to say

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to open up the door and get the discussion going.

[00:15:06.520]

And sometimes they have materials or audio visuals.

[00:15:10.080]

So the roundtable

[00:15:12.800]

submission includes the names of the people who will be doing that work,

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who will be the participants, a moderator for the roundtable,

[00:15:20.640]

and if the roundtable is accepted, it just works in a breakout session

[00:15:25.600]

as an alternative to going to a breakout

[00:15:27.880]

session and listening to four papers. You say, I'm not going to papers this time.

[00:15:32.760]

I'm going to a roundtable to talk about. . . .

[00:15:35.720]

Now, the key about a roundtable is that priority selection is given to roundtables

[00:15:42.360]

that include members from multiple chapters.

[00:15:44.720]

If you don't know members from multiple chapters and you email

[00:15:48.520]

Englishconvention.org, we will put you in touch with student

[00:15:51.840]

leaders and regents from your chapter, from your area, and that we will help you

[00:15:56.880]

find people from other chapters who have the same interest.

[00:16:00.160]

Lots of emails will fly back and forth

[00:16:02.400]

before we find students who want to be on your roundtable with you.

[00:16:08.200]

Suggested roundtable topics really are anything under the sun.

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Lots of things are possible.

[00:16:14.000]

We will, of course, be very interested in anyone who wants

[00:16:16.920]

to do a roundtable on our Common Reader or on our convention theme

[00:16:20.760]

of Colorful Colorado, but any kind of literary theme or English

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related theme or popular culture theme is just fine, and we would be very interested

[00:16:30.160]

in accepting and looking at those roundtables.

[00:16:35.040]

Now, if you are submitting a roundtable,

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only one person submits the roundtable with a whole group,

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and that roundtable proposal will have a long abstract, up to about 250 words,

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that kind of describes what you're going to do.

[00:16:49.680]

You'll have a short abstract, which will be what appears in the program app so

[00:16:54.440]

that people can read and get excited about coming to hear you.

[00:16:57.640]

It will also have a bibliography

[00:16:59.840]

that shows some evidence of the work that you will have done before

[00:17:03.040]

the roundtable so that the participants are ready to sort of start the discussion.

[00:17:08.040]

The bibliography does not have to be an academic bibliography.

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It can just be information that you have

[00:17:13.920]

gathered that you will be bringing to the roundtable.

[00:17:17.720]

If you need audio-visual,

[00:17:19.520]

you have to say that in your proposal and tell us what you're going to use

[00:17:22.680]

the audio-visual for, because audio-visual is always a precious

[00:17:26.880]

commodity and we don't have every room equipped with it.

[00:17:30.000]

And you'll list the participants and the moderator for your roundtable proposal.

[00:17:37.160]

Research in the round is again only in its second year.

[00:17:41.520]

And I think that you should think

[00:17:42.800]

of research in the round proposals as the proposal for the paper that hasn't

[00:17:47.440]

been written yet but that is still in progress.

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That you have a research topic that you're working on.

[00:17:53.520]

And the research in the round gives you

[00:17:55.720]

a chance to spend an hour chatting with other Sigma Tau Deltans about your

[00:18:00.320]

potential research and getting some feedback from them.

[00:18:03.720]

So you will include in your submission

[00:18:06.480]

your proposed research topic, the short abstract of up to 50 words

[00:18:10.840]

that will kind of describe your research project, and the long abstract.

[00:18:14.720]

And that long abstract will include a draft of two questions that you're going

[00:18:19.240]

to ask the people who come up to your table to talk to you about your research.

[00:18:24.320]

That will be sort of conversation-

[00:18:27.000]

generating questions. And research in the round was kind of fun last year.

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I think it was sort of speed dating for English nerds because you only spend

[00:18:36.200]

about ten minutes at the table talking with the people about their research,

[00:18:39.680]

and then you go to the next table and say, so what are you up to?

[00:18:43.080]

What do you have to share? What questions do you want to ask me?

[00:18:46.320]

But two of my students did it last year and they had a great time.

[00:18:52.000]

Okay. Over to Elfi.

[00:18:53.960]

Hi, everybody.

[00:18:55.040]

So now you have a pretty good idea of what you want to submit.

[00:19:00.480]

Now you have to figure out how you're going to submit.

[00:19:02.880]

And we've tried to make it very easy for you.

[00:19:07.000]

If you go to the Englishconvention.org

[00:19:11.120]

website, you will see that tab that shows you submissions.

[00:19:15.840]

And under there you will see the guides

[00:19:18.880]

for papers, for roundtables, and research in the round.

[00:19:23.840]

Select one of those, read through it.

[00:19:26.400]

It has more detail, probably that you'd ever need to know,

[00:19:32.720]

but it basically recapsulates everything that Diane has put together.

[00:19:40.400]

Then on the bottom,

[00:19:41.800]

you'll see a link to the website where you will make the submission.

[00:19:46.960]

The first thing you will do is create an account.

[00:19:50.960]

Some of you may have been to convention last year, or you may have had

[00:19:57.920]

the opportunity to submit to our journal publications last year. If you did that,

[00:20:05.080]

this is the same system.

[00:20:06.960]

However, you would need to know both your

[00:20:09.840]

username and your access password in order to use that.

[00:20:15.240]

If you don't have it, that's okay.

[00:20:18.120]

Just create a new account.

[00:20:19.640]

It doesn't matter.

[00:20:21.280]

And also, one more thing is this is not

[00:20:24.240]

connected to any other account that you have with Sigma Tau Delta.

[00:20:29.400]

Some of you have invitation accounts

[00:20:32.520]

for becoming a member, and some of you have also submitted

[00:20:37.520]

to AwardSpring for awards such as scholarships or internships.

[00:20:44.280]

Those are different accounts.

[00:20:46.040]

This is a brand new account, so it's very easy to do.

[00:20:50.160]

Just log in and it will guide you and let

[00:20:55.040]

you know that you need to use eight characters for your password.

[00:20:59.440]

So you get into the account and we'll go to the next slide.

[00:21:04.640]

And what you will do is you will complete a brief profile.

[00:21:10.080]

There are a lot of questions in there,

[00:21:11.760]

but only some of those are required, such as your school,

[00:21:17.360]

what your academic status is, a semester that you were inducted,

[00:21:23.360]

those type of vital things that we need to know.

[00:21:26.120]

The rest of it you can complete later on.

[00:21:29.120]

We will use information like the bios down the road, but that's only once we

[00:21:36.000]

get to that presentation phase.

[00:21:38.680]

So now you're in and you're ready to make your—oh go back.

[00:21:48.120]

Okay, so here.

[00:21:49.440]

This picture is what it looks like when you start a new submission.

[00:21:53.160]

The first thing you're going to do is select the type of submission you have.

[00:21:56.640]

And that's either going to be a critical

[00:21:59.120]

essay, creative work, roundtable, or research in the round. You identify

[00:22:04.240]

your membership and be sure to put your title in.

[00:22:08.800]

That needs to be 50 characters or less.

[00:22:12.560]

After that, the system does prompt you for every

[00:22:18.400]

single thing that it's going to ask you for.

[00:22:21.160]

For example, that thesis that you put

[00:22:23.840]

in for a critical paper, it will have a space for you to put

[00:22:27.680]

that information in, or those keywords that you select.

[00:22:31.200]

It will have a place for that or where you upload the paper.

[00:22:35.440]

And then the most important thing to know

[00:22:37.760]

is that if you start today, you don't have to finish today.

[00:22:42.720]

The account will stay there.

[00:22:44.960]

And it will stay there sort of in a sort of in progress status.

[00:22:49.160]

And until you hit the submit button

[00:22:51.920]

and finally finish, your submission won't be done.

[00:22:56.520]

And even at that point,

[00:22:58.160]

if you really needed to make a change, you still could make a change.

[00:23:04.680]

So now we're going to talk about the important dates.

[00:23:07.760]

The first most important date is October 31, Halloween, at 05:00 p.m.

[00:23:12.920]

And that's central time.

[00:23:15.720]

That is the drop dead date for getting your submission in.

[00:23:20.520]

We highly recommend that you do this, though, a few days before.

[00:23:25.040]

First of all, we want you to enjoy your holiday Halloween weekend.

[00:23:30.040]

And secondly, we don't want anyone to feel

[00:23:32.760]

like they're rushed as far as getting their submissions in.

[00:23:37.000]

We're on staff to answer your questions,

[00:23:39.760]

so at Englishconvention@niu.edu.

[00:23:44.360]

The sooner you ask your questions, the sooner we can get back to you.

[00:23:48.960]

And sometimes you might have the Internet

[00:23:52.440]

may go bad, so you don't really want to wait till the last minute.

[00:23:57.280]

You will get notifications. Roundtables,

[00:24:00.720]

research in the round, chapter share, and alumni presentations,

[00:24:04.200]

which we didn't talk about today, but are due on October 10.

[00:24:10.320]

In a few days. Those all will have notifications coming

[00:24:14.720]

out on November 15, and the confirmations are due back on December 5.

[00:24:20.160]

With regard to papers, those notifications come out on December

[00:24:24.440]

14 and the confirmations are due January 17.

[00:24:30.200]

And so if you are accepted

[00:24:34.400]

to participate in our convention, and I think most of you will, the last,

[00:24:39.560]

most important thing to do is register for the convention.

[00:24:44.280]

So that will show in the next slide here.

[00:24:47.600]

Registration opens January 4 through 17.

[00:24:52.840]

We have a special early rate.

[00:24:56.960]

Anybody who's participating in the convention needs to register then.

[00:25:02.400]

It's part of the confirmation.

[00:25:04.560]

And we needed that early so that we can actually take all those papers,

[00:25:11.640]

put them into like sessions, create something meaningful for you to

[00:25:19.240]

see at the convention and also notify you by February 15 with a full schedule

[00:25:26.120]

that will or just to write around February 15 with a full schedule that shows when

[00:25:32.000]

you would present and when other people will present.

[00:25:35.960]

It's sort of that beginning place where you're going to start planning

[00:25:40.760]

all those pieces of your convention experience.

[00:25:44.880]

So we're going to open up

[00:25:47.880]

for any of the questions that you have and we're going to put those in.

[00:25:52.400]

Okay, so the first question comes

[00:25:54.360]

from Eunice Tan and she asks, can I submit multiple submissions?

[00:26:00.360]

Okay, Diane, do you want to answer that?

[00:26:02.880]

Yes, you can submit multiple papers,

[00:26:08.080]

but one of the papers must be about the Common Reader,

[00:26:11.120]

and you can submit in addition a roundtable or research in the round.

[00:26:15.720]

It's theoretically possible that a student could have three submissions,

[00:26:19.400]

a paper submission, a common reader submission,

[00:26:22.760]

and a roundtable or research in the round submission.

[00:26:25.520]

So, yes, you can.

[00:26:27.560]

Oh, and there's actually also that opportunity to do

[00:26:31.880]

the roundtable, too, but of course that's not a paper.

[00:26:37.480]

Next question.

[00:26:39.560]

Has it started yet?

[00:26:41.000]

I haven't heard anything yet.

[00:26:42.880]

Well, yes, submissions have opened.

[00:26:45.760]

They opened on September 26.

[00:26:48.440]

So, as Diane suggested,

[00:26:51.120]

go to Englishconvention.org and that's where you're going to find all

[00:26:56.160]

the information about submitting to convention.

[00:26:58.960]

Yes,

[00:27:02.360]

Kristen, this is being recorded and it takes a couple of days to take all

[00:27:08.960]

the slides, to take all the information and put it all up.

[00:27:11.520]

But I understand that it will be released on Tuesday of next week, we hope.

[00:27:16.320]

Yes, that's our plan.

[00:27:17.960]

We actually put together a full transcript in addition to making sure that the video

[00:27:24.320]

is clean and it's something that you can see.

[00:27:27.680]

So what we're going to do is when we have

[00:27:30.840]

that video up, we will send you an email so that you can access that information.

[00:27:37.080]

I will also post these slides up tomorrow on the website.

[00:27:44.080]

I can take this one.

[00:27:45.280]

Can we give a short introduction before reading our paper?

[00:27:47.960]

Normally, you will be introduced by the session chair.

[00:27:52.000]

Now, does that mean I have never heard a student say hello or anything like that?

[00:27:56.480]

Of course I've heard a student say hello.

[00:27:58.440]

But the key to the 2,000 word limit is that

[00:28:03.120]

you cannot take up more than your share of reading aloud time because the people

[00:28:08.680]

at the paper session want to hear all four papers, and then they want to have 15

[00:28:13.760]

to 25 minutes to chat and discuss those four papers.

[00:28:17.640]

So if you have a 2,000 word paper but you want to talk for three minutes beforehand

[00:28:23.960]

to introduce the paper, you're taking more than your share of the time.

[00:28:27.840]

So normally we don't introduce ourselves,

[00:28:30.920]

the chair introduces us, and then we just read our paper.

[00:28:35.960]

Am I right about that, Brett? The chair?

[00:28:38.760]

Yeah. Okay.

[00:28:40.160]

That's correct.

[00:28:41.360]

Okay, this is an Elfi question.

[00:28:44.080]

The name of the website is Englishconvention.org,

[00:28:51.720]

and you can also get a direct link from our English.org website.

[00:28:58.640]

So either way, you will get to that information.

[00:29:03.200]

Yeah.

[00:29:05.600]

Okay.

[00:29:06.160]

Christopher is asking similar questions to the first question.

[00:29:09.680]

Could the critical essay and poetry be considered two separate submissions?

[00:29:15.480]

Okay.

[00:29:16.600]

This requires a little clarification

[00:29:19.560]

because you can either submit a critical essay or a creative work.

[00:29:27.240]

Now, if the critical essay is, say,

[00:29:30.640]

something on American 19th century lit, that's great.

[00:29:35.960]

And then you switch over and your poetry responds to the Common Reader,

[00:29:44.200]

one of the short stories there that is accepted.

[00:29:47.720]

That second piece has to be connected to the Common Reader.

[00:29:54.720]

Okay, gosh.

[00:29:56.880]

Is that the last question?

[00:29:59.080]

All right. Yes.

[00:30:01.440]

You absolutely are allowed to write about a nonenglish work in translation.

[00:30:07.480]

I think that this is a conference that is very generous.

[00:30:11.280]

We try to find a reason to accept as many papers as possible.

[00:30:15.240]

If a paper is turned down,

[00:30:17.640]

it's either because it is way beyond 2,000 words,

[00:30:23.280]

it is way under 2,000 words, so that's much too short, or it's not that well written.

[00:30:32.080]

But if a paper is around the right size and about a topic related to English

[00:30:37.320]

and fairly well written, it's going to be accepted.

[00:30:40.520]

This is a very user-friendly conference.

[00:30:47.680]

Yes. Do you want to take that?

[00:30:49.160]

I can do that. All right.

[00:30:50.400]

There is a category called original prose

[00:30:53.360]

fiction, and the original prose fiction is up to 2,000 words of original prose.

[00:30:58.720]

It can be a series of flash fiction.

[00:31:02.520]

It can be an excerpt from a longer work.

[00:31:04.600]

So, yes, you could read a 2,000 word

[00:31:06.720]

excerpt from a prose novel in a prose fiction section.

[00:31:15.080]

Okay. This is a good question.

[00:31:16.640]

How do we find roommates for the hotel?

[00:31:19.240]

Well, we actually have that set up.

[00:31:21.520]

If you go to the hotel tab on the website,

[00:31:26.560]

there's a place where there's an email and you send in saying, oh,

[00:31:31.840]

I'm going to be here Wednesday through Saturday and I want to have one roommate.

[00:31:40.360]

And you specify if you male, female, whatever gender is appropriate for you.

[00:31:48.440]

And what we do from our end is we actually match you up with someone else,

[00:31:57.480]

and then the two of you will figure out how you want to arrange for that room.

[00:32:06.200]

So one person would book the room

[00:32:08.280]

and the other person would join in and you'd split the fees.

[00:32:12.240]

Now, it could be also some of the rooms

[00:32:15.000]

are up to four people, so it's really what you're comfortable with.

[00:32:24.120]

Does the registration fee include lodging?

[00:32:27.600]

No, it would have to be a whole lot more money than that.

[00:32:35.280]

We do have the rates on the website, and this is a block rate.

[00:32:42.640]

The hotel block registration can start taking place in December.

[00:32:50.600]

We put it up December 1.

[00:32:52.880]

And that block is open all the way, I believe, through March 7.

[00:32:58.400]

Or if all the rooms are

[00:33:01.720]

taken up, then what we do is we help you find some other space,

[00:33:07.760]

but we believe that this hotel, it has two towers, it has a lot of rooms,

[00:33:14.080]

it has a lot of space that it should generously, it's very generous and I think

[00:33:20.040]

it should hold everybody that's coming to convention.

[00:33:23.800]

Brett, you want to take this question?

[00:33:27.560]

Oh, I should probably unmute myself.

[00:33:29.160]

I would love to.

[00:33:33.200]

Oh, I don't think it's oh, can you see it?

[00:33:36.000]

Is a \$20 fee required to attend the award lunch or only if you want to buy a lunch?

[00:33:41.000]

Oh, was that not just answered?

[00:33:43.280]

No, no, I didn't answer that.

[00:33:45.880]

Okay, well, no, I don't believe it is, is it?

[00:33:49.560]

I'm doing a terrible job.

[00:33:50.600]

So here's how it works.

[00:33:53.880]

The \$20 fee is highly subsidized.

[00:33:57.200]

If any of you have been to weddings at hotels, you know that the cost for

[00:34:02.600]

a full meal at a hotel is much more than that.

[00:34:06.280]

But the \$20 fee does help support the fact

[00:34:10.400]

that we can have people at the awards luncheon.

[00:34:14.200]

Typically there are

[00:34:18.120]

over 600 people that attend this particular awards luncheon.

[00:34:22.320]

It's the time that we kind of excitingly find out who's won that poetry award.

[00:34:28.560]

So there is a \$20 fee,

[00:34:32.080]

there's an opportunity to buy the luncheon at registration.

[00:34:38.960]

There are a few—

[00:34:40.800]

we do also have the ability to add that on a little bit later on too.

[00:34:45.840]

So it's not something you have to decide right off the bat.

[00:34:49.800]

However, it does need to be purchased in advance.

[00:34:53.520]

I do think that calling it a luncheon

[00:34:55.880]

gives people the idea that it's going to be a sandwich and a bag of chips.

[00:34:59.160]

But it is a big elaborate luncheon with waiters and waitresses in a big

[00:35:04.400]

ballroom and it's, it's quite, quite fancy.

[00:35:06.960]

If we charge you what the hotel charges

[00:35:09.160]

us, it would be about sixty five dollars to eighty dollars a person.

[00:35:14.120]

It's kind of crazy.

[00:35:15.360]

But you do not have to come to the awards luncheon to win the award.

[00:35:20.000]

If you decide you're not coming to the awards luncheon and you win

[00:35:22.800]

an award, you will still win the award and it will still be sent to you.

[00:35:28.160]

No, you do not have the option to present virtually.

[00:35:31.560]

If you cannot present physically, then you can't present.

[00:35:35.800]

We don't have the budget that would be

[00:35:38.560]

required for us to set up rooms to allow people to present virtually.

[00:35:43.560]

It would cost a fortune.

[00:35:47.520]

Can we present at the conference

[00:35:50.040]

in Colorado even if we didn't present at a regional conference?

[00:35:54.120]

Of course. Yes. So the regional conferences

[00:35:57.960]

oftentimes are set up a little bit, sort of as a practice place.

[00:36:03.360]

You can kind of try out your paper, see if it really suits this type of venue.

[00:36:11.640]

And a lot of students will take the opportunity to present at a regional

[00:36:18.640]

conference first, but absolutely, they're not connected.

[00:36:26.520]

Yes, you can stay at another hotel if it's more cost efficient for you.

[00:36:30.760]

If your aunt lives in Denver,

[00:36:32.600]

you can certainly stay at her house and take a bus into the hotel.

[00:36:37.080]

There's nothing to prevent you from shopping around for a different lodging.

[00:36:41.640]

However, once you start shopping around

[00:36:43.760]

for downtown hotels, the rooming is not going to say sound that expensive.

[00:36:49.000]

The lodging is 199 per night,

[00:36:51.960]

whether you have one, two, three or four people in the room.

[00:36:55.360]

That sounds really awful because that's

[00:36:57.520]

not what my family pays when it goes on vacation, but it's way less than I'm

[00:37:01.360]

used to paying at downtown hotels for academic conferences.

[00:37:08.200]

And another thing just to mention is

[00:37:10.760]

there's a huge convenience factor in being in the hotel.

[00:37:16.200]

Brett, maybe you want to mention some

[00:37:17.960]

of the social activities that happen at convention.

[00:37:21.920]

Yeah, definitely.

[00:37:23.080]

The hotel really becomes a really vibrant space for students attending

[00:37:27.560]

the convention and it really can feel like I would say—

[00:37:31.600]

I mean—

[00:37:32.000]

do whatever's going to financially be the best for you.

[00:37:34.840]

But certainly keep in mind that many attendees are going to be staying

[00:37:41.080]

at the hotel and that is where all of the convention events,

[00:37:45.040]

of course, are taking place.

[00:37:46.200]

Including things like our

[00:37:48.640]

literary pub trivia night that will be hosting for students as well as a little

[00:37:54.160]

social break room that we'll be hosting for any time folks are doing lunch or

[00:37:57.880]

dinner on their own, we'll be staffing in a room—

[00:38:01.080]

the Student Leaders and myself will be

[00:38:03.520]

providing some camaraderie in those spaces.

[00:38:06.680]

And I would say that even just really

[00:38:09.040]

the lobby, as unstructured as that sounds, I feel like it really just becomes a space

[00:38:15.160]

where students can be in and a place where plans are made.

[00:38:20.480]

The hotel really takes on a life of its own at these sort of events.

[00:38:24.840]

Right.

[00:38:26.960]

The awards lunch in question,

[00:38:28.960]

I always have my students attend the awards luncheon because it's a chance

[00:38:33.320]

to sort of celebrate people's successes at the convention.

[00:38:36.440]

Most attendees will go and obviously some

[00:38:39.880]

of the time we'll just be people chatting with one another and having their lunch.

[00:38:43.280]

And then there will be the announcements

[00:38:46.600]

of all of the winners of all the different, you know,

[00:38:49.520]

the best poetry and the best prose nonfiction and the best essay

[00:38:55.120]

in American literature and that sort of thing.

[00:38:57.400]

It's a fun time and a fun event.

[00:39:04.520]

That's a good question.

[00:39:08.480]

I do not anticipate that we will have a hard cap this year.

[00:39:14.280]

We have a lot of spaces in which to give

[00:39:16.520]

papers so we will be able to accept all of the good papers.

[00:39:20.560]

Some hotels are a little more crowded,

[00:39:22.720]

fewer breakout rooms, and sometimes we have to turn papers away

[00:39:26.440]

because we've literally run out of space for presentations.

[00:39:29.360]

But I would say two thirds

[00:39:32.360]

of the submissions are generally accepted to 70% is probably historically speaking.

[00:39:40.960]

Does that sound right? Elfi?

[00:39:42.800]

Yeah, it depends on the categories too, right?

[00:39:50.640]

Every day of the convention there will be

[00:39:53.360]

three different paper breakout sessions and so Thursday, Friday, and Saturday,

[00:39:58.600]

each have three different paper breakout sessions.

[00:40:01.000]

So Saturday will be three breakout sessions, a short break,

[00:40:05.760]

the awards luncheon, and people will be able to leave the hotel about 3:30

[00:40:11.600]

when the convention should be over

[00:40:12.840]

on Saturday, which gives some people the option of flying home on Saturday

[00:40:16.960]

night and not having to spend money on Saturday night lodging.

[00:40:23.480]

Okay, it looks like we have one more question.

[00:40:27.840]

Are family members also allowed to attend to the convention? Of course!

[00:40:33.320]

So there are a couple of different ways that works out.

[00:40:36.320]

Number one is your family members might want to be at the entire convention

[00:40:42.160]

because, as Diane mentioned oh, I think Brett mentioned for you

[00:40:46.560]

in the beginning, we have featured author speakers.

[00:40:49.440]

We have just a lot of different things kind of happening.

[00:40:52.480]

And so you don't have to be academically

[00:40:56.080]

mind to actually enjoy all the presentations and the things that happen.

[00:41:01.800]

However,

[00:41:03.000]

if a family member only wants to come and see your presentation, that is allowed.

[00:41:09.200]

And, you know, we do that on a case by case basis.

[00:41:12.560]

Anyone who's attending more than just

[00:41:16.200]

that, however, will need to register for the convention.

[00:41:20.960]

And there is a special registration rate if your family member wants to just come

[00:41:25.000]

for one day, which is a savings if you just want to come for the one day.

[00:41:29.360]

Right. Yes.

[00:41:30.160]

There'll be lots of bonding events.

[00:41:32.280]

There are student events scheduled

[00:41:34.480]

on the convention from 8:00 in the morning till about 11:00 at night.

[00:41:39.040]

And some of them are formal and some of them are informal.

[00:41:41.960]

And if you are a night owl, there will be things to keep you busy.

[00:41:45.560]

And if you are a morning lark, there will be things to keep you busy.

[00:41:48.720]

And some of us will be busy 16 or 17 hours

[00:41:52.360]

a day and sleep on the plane on the way home.

[00:41:57.000]

Brett, you didn't mention we have open mic, we have bad poetry.

[00:42:01.800]

There's some of those events and a lot

[00:42:04.320]

of those happen a little bit later in the evening.

[00:42:06.920]

Yeah. And this is such a non-answer,

[00:42:08.960]

but every event at convention is like fodder for bonding.

[00:42:14.120]

Nic Stone last year was our featured speaker and gave everyone so much to talk

[00:42:18.520]

and think about with each other all night and days after.

[00:42:22.120]

So, yeah, lots of stuff.

[00:42:24.880]

Lots of stuff.

[00:42:27.240]

Well, thank you everybody for staying on.

[00:42:30.600]

I know we said this was going to be about a half hour and I think we ran about,

[00:42:34.400]

oops, twelve minutes over, but hopefully we've given you at least

[00:42:39.600]

a taste or a little flavor of what the convention is all about.

[00:42:43.400]

And we certainly encourage you to start

[00:42:47.400]

today thinking about what you want to submit and create that submission soon.

[00:42:54.280]

So we're here to answer any more of your

[00:42:57.160]

questions and the email address is on the website.

[00:43:02.560]

And the website again is Englishconvention.org. Thanks everybody.

[00:43:08.240]

Thank you and good night. Good night everyone.